***Name/classification***; Olive/Olea europaea

Family; Oleaceae

There are six natural subspecies of Olea europaea;

1. Olea europaea subsp. europaea (Mediterranean Basin)
2. Olea europaea subsp. cuspidata (from South Africa throughout East Africa, Arabia to South West China)
3. Olea europaea subsp. guanchica (Canaries)
4. Olea europaea subsp. cerasiformis (Madeira)
5. Olea europaea subsp. maroccana Morocco
6. Olea europaea subsp. laperrinei (Algeria, Sudan, Niger)

The subspecies maroccana and cerasiformis are respectively hexaploid and tetraploid.

***Cultivation;*** Olives are now cultivated in many regions of the world with Mediterranean climates, such as South Africa, Chile, Peru, Australia, and California

Olea europaea may have arisen from O. chrysophylla in northern tropical Africa and that it was introduced into the countries of the Mediterranean Basin via Egypt

***Description;*** The olive tree, Olea europaea, is an evergreen tree or shrub native to the Mediterranean, Asia and Africa. It is short and squat, with silvery green leaves, gnarled trunk, small white, feathery flowers.

***Cultivation features;*** prefers mild weather, like the coast. They require another olive tree to fertilize, trees are planted in pairs, one bred for bearing fruit and the other bred for fertilizing the first tree. The olive tree, Olea europaea, is very hardy: drought-, disease- and fire-resistant, it can live to a great age. Its root system is robust and capable of regenerating the tree even if the above-ground structure is destroyed. The older the olive tree, the broader and more gnarled the trunk becomes. Many olive trees in the groves around the Mediterranean are said to be hundreds of years old, while an age of 2,000 years is claimed for a number of individual trees; in some cases, this has been scientifically verified

***Uses;*** The olive tree, Olea europaea, has been cultivated for olive oil, fine wood, olive leaf, and the olive fruit.

***History;*** Farmers in ancient times believed that olive trees would not grow well if planted more than a certain distance from the sea. The olive is one of the plants most often cited in western literature. The leafy branches of the olive tree – the olive branch as a symbol of abundance, glory and peace – were used to crown the victors of friendly games and bloody wars. As emblems of benediction and purification, they were also ritually offered to deities and powerful figures; some were even found in Tutankhamen's tomb.

***Native American uses***; I couldn’t find any special ones

***North American uses;*** olive oil, cooking, wood, eating, pickled olives, stuffed olives